



FRANKLIN FIRE  
DEPARTMENT

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# Fire Flash

BY FIRE AND LIFE SAFETY EDUCATOR  
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## SPECIAL POINT OF INTEREST:

- "Fish Flash" is back by popular demand! Be sure to check out Deputy Chief Mike Culberson and Water Management Department employee Joe Holt's **WINTER FISHING TIPS** on page 4 and get an update on how they did in their latest tournament!

Franklin Fire Department adds four new Child Passenger Safety Seat technicians, including two who speak Spanish

The Franklin Fire Department has expanded our Child Passenger Safety program with the addition of four new technicians, including two who speak Spanish. This brings the total number of technicians in the fire department to 13.

Bilingual firefighters Captain Jose Periut and Firefighter Greg Lestarjette, as well as Firefighters Wes Bryant and Chris Shadowens completed the 32-hour certification course in October. Both Jose and Greg have been instrumental in the department's outreach to the Spanish-speaking community. [To read more about them see the following page.](#)

The Franklin Fire Department joined the Franklin Police Department in offering a child passenger safety program two years ago. In 2012 FFD technicians helped to install more than 120 child safety seats.

According to Safe Kids USA, over 70 percent of child restraints are not installed or used correctly.

For help with your child safety seat call (615) 791-3270 for fire department assistance or contact the Franklin Police Department at (615) 794-2513 x 5810.

### Child Passenger Safety Facts from Safe Kids USA

- Motor vehicle crashes are the leading cause of death among children ages 3 to 14.
- Correctly used child safety seats are extremely effective and reduce the risk of death as much as 71%.
- Nearly 73% of child restraints are not installed or used correctly.
- Nearly half of kids 14 and under who died in crashes were completely unrestrained.



Captain Jose  
Periut



Firefighter Greg  
Lestarjette



Firefighter Wes  
Bryant



Firefighter Chris  
Shadowens

## Bilingual firefighters share family stories

The Franklin Fire Department is fortunate to have two bilingual firefighters – Captain Jose Periut and Firefighter Greg Lestarjette. The son of Cuban immigrants, Spanish was Jose’s first language. Greg learned to speak Spanish while growing up in the Dominican Republic with his missionary parents. Both Jose and Greg have been instrumental in the department’s outreach to the Spanish-speaking community. Recent bilingual events include Family Fire Safety for Franklin Head Start parents and fire extinguisher training for Hilton Garden Inn employees. They shared their family stories for the City Insider.

### Captain Jose Periut

In 1960 Franklin Fire Captain Jose Periut’s paternal grandparents emigrated from Cuba to the United States with their 10 children, including Jose’s father Tony, who was 25 at the time, and Tony’s wife Meris. Meris was pregnant with the couple’s first of two children, Jose’s older sister Maria.



Captain Jose Periut and crew give 2012 Fire Prevention Week poster contest winner Mabry Simmons a ride home from school on Engine 6. L to R: Firefighter Josh Sanders, Mabry Simmons, Captain Jose Periut and Engineer Nathan Goodin.

The Periut family was like thousands of others who left Cuba for the United States in order to escape communism after the Cuban revolution of 1959, led by Fidel Castro. Most Cuban Americans who initially arrived in the United States came from Cuba's educated upper and middle classes and the Periut family was no different.

Jose’s grandfather Antonio Periut was a doctor and his grandmother was a chemist who had her own business making suntan lotion. They flew their family into Miami where they stayed until Antonio obtained his license to practice medicine in the United States. The family then relocated to Nashville, where Jose was born, after Antonio was hired as the resident physician for the Middle Tennessee Mental Health Institute.



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## Captain Jose Periut, continued

Jose said the only English words his mother knew when she arrived in the U.S. were 'yes' and 'thank you.' He said he learned to speak English by watching TV.

His mother worked in the Havana Madrid Restaurant on West End Avenue in Nashville that was owned by Jose's aunt and uncle. "I pretty much grew up in kitchens," said Jose, "Hence I hate to cook." He remembered getting in trouble for opening the large cans of fruit cocktail, eating a few bites and then putting them back in the pantry.

Jose joined the Navy and served from 1988-1990 where he worked on an aircraft carrier. He was a reservist from 1990-1994. Upon returning home to Tennessee he was hired as a firefighter for the City of Brentwood, before joining the Franklin Fire Department in October of 1992.



## Firefighter Greg Lestarjette

Firefighter Greg Lestarjette's parents Norman and Martha were Assemblies of God missionaries. They moved from Texas to Santo Domingo in the Dominican Republic when Greg was two years old and his sister Lynda was five.

Norman's assignment was to train native Dominicans to become pastors, but his family also started a church in their garage. "We added some doors and windows and bought some pews," said Greg. "The word spread and it grew and it grew." He said his sister taught Sunday school to children her age and his dad pastored it. He added, "When we left, a Dominican pastor took the church."

Greg said that today the church has grown into one of the largest Assemblies of God churches in the country and has launched three other churches in the Dominican Republic.



Firefighter Greg Lestarjette gives an interview regarding his famous cooking skills at Station 2.

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Greg's family moved back to the United States when he was 14 but he still keeps in touch with some of

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## Firefighter Greg Lestarjette, continued

his Dominican friends on Facebook.

After high school graduation Greg joined the Army and was stationed at Aviano Air Force Base in northeastern Italy near Austria and the Adriatic Sea. He was a crew chief on CH-47 helicopters and one of his jobs was to help schedule training for emergency services personnel. He said, "I started hanging out with firefighters and started getting the (firefighting) bug."

He was also deployed to Kuwait during Desert Storm and ran supply missions to several combat units, but admitted, "We never actually got shot at."

After leaving the service Greg became a firefighter in Fort Worth, TX. He and his wife relocated to Franklin in 2002 after she accepted a job opportunity here. He has been with the Franklin Fire Department since September of 2002.



## FISH FLASH!

### Winter fishing—"The great time of the year"

By Deputy Chief Mike Culberson and Joe Holt

**Update:** Veteran City of Franklin fishing partners Franklin Fire Deputy Chief Mike Culberson and Water Management Pump Station Technician Joe Holt qualified recently for the U.S.A. Bassin National Championship, which will take place May 1-10, 2013, on Kentucky Lake out of Aurora, KY. They qualified by placing 11th in the four-state U.S.A. Bassin Regional tournament that was held on October 6th at Old Hickory Lake out of Bull Creek Marina in Gallatin, TN. The pair will be competing for over \$100,000 in cash and prizes, including three new bass boats that will be awarded to the top three tournament champions.

As the waters of many impoundments start cooling off from the summer daytime heat and the nights get cooler, it to me is one of the greatest times of the year. Bass will traditionally start moving back off key river spots, heading back into the creeks or tributaries. "Why does this occur?" one may ask, or, "Why do they move off of deeper water to shallower water when it gets cooler?" Let's take a look at this and figure a few hints out for you.

One of the more important reasons is the shad minnows migrate to shallower water. Why? The shallower water is one of the key spots in the creeks to warm first on a sunny day, especially where there are a lot of rocks, pea gravel,

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## Winter fishing, continued

and rock and mud banks. The sun's rays penetrate shallower water easier, thus warming it up more quickly.

Bass are the most active here in the southeast part of the U.S. when the water temperatures are in the sixties to low seventies. The feeding activity picks up more throughout the daytime hours rather than early or late in the hot summer.

So what do we key on when cooler weather hits? The answer is rock points in the creeks, most of the time in five to eight feet of water, clay or mud banks, and stumps or brush piles in this range depth of water. Start at the mouths of the creeks and work your way back to the shallowest part you can possibly maneuver your boat in safely.

What do we use for this time of the year? One of the most fun baits to fish is the spinnerbait in colors of white, chartreuse, and a new and emerging popular color, blue shimmer. Another fun bait to fish is the rattle trap in blue and chrome, bone, and black and chrome.

With the waters cooling down let's relate to another critter that will make his debut back into the scene. The **NUMBER ONE FAVORITE MEAL OF ANY BASS** is the crawfish, so jigs in crawdad colors become real popular.

These include smaller worms in the six to seven-inch range in pumpkinseed, motor oil, brown and one of the most popular colors, "Tequila Sunrise." With that being said, top water baits in cool weather can produce well. Buzz baits, zara spooks, stick baits such as the rapala and the smithwick rogue come back to being in the tackle box.

Be careful out there - most U.S. Corps of Engineer lakes at present are lowering water levels to winter pools so the water depths are dropping. Keep your eyes open and your life jackets on.

Happy Fishing,

Joe and Mike



*Spinnerbait*



*Rattle trap*



*Crankbait*

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